

June 18, 1965

Mr. Abe Asheroff
335 Twenty-eighth Avenue
Venice, California

Dear Abe:

Thanks for the outlines and give my best to Noel.

I have in mind just the right person to head up the program, but to get him back from Canada where he is now working with medical and health co-ops, we would have to be prepared to 1) keep him employed, which should not be a big problem, and 2) to pay him something near the \$11,000.00 plus housing plus etc. that he is getting. It is not that he demands a high salary, but that he has a house full of kids he is educating. The person I have in mind is Tom Ludwig who was on the Highlander Staff for a number of years and later organized co-operatives for the Farmers' Union and still later worked as a manager for the United Mine Workers Health and Welfare Fund. While a student at Berkeley, where he graduated with Phi Beta Kappa, he worked nights on a newspaper. He is a good writer and a good organizer. He is anxious to get back South, and would like very much to have a chance to use his many skills in educational and managerial capacity in connection with the Civil Rights movement and perhaps later on, with the Appalachian Poverty Program. Tom could be just as efficient in Appalachia as in Mississippi, and once we got him back to the States, I do not think we would have a great deal of trouble keeping him occupied and raising his salary.

Like some of the rest of us, Tom was investigated by the Senator Eastland Internal Securities Committee, at which time he took the fifth amendment. This apparently caused no problem with the Knoxville doctor in charge of the Miners' Welfare Program, but the good doctor did fire Tom when he bought the property that is now being used for Highlander Center.

Tom could arrange to leave his present job the middle of August and be ready to start work September 1 if we could assure him of a somewhat permanent employment. He is currently being considered for work in Mississippi by the medical committee, and if we get him for our project, we will have to give him some encouragement soon. I have talked to Tom by phone and he is definitely interested.

This is a hasty letter, but I think we have the right man.

Sincerely yours,

Myles Horton

MH:jd

cc: Lucy Montgomery